



CWT RUSLAND LOCAL SUPPORT GROUP: UPCOMING EVENTS

Feel like getting out and about with some physical conservation work over the winter? Please come and join us at one of our local events. And if you want to learn more about the role and work of the Rusland Group, including the Rainforest Project then do come to our talk. Details as follows:

- Saturday 8th November, Black Beck Woods – Rhododendron Bashing
 - Tuesday 18th November, 7.30 pm, Ulverston Methodist Church. Talk on the work of the Rusland Group and the Rainforest Project.
 - Saturday 17th January, Black Beck Woods – Coppicing for conservation
- Also a 'Save the date' - 6th December - for a **RUSLAND CHURCH TOWER**
- Rainforest Project volunteer planting day. Details will follow.

To attend any of these events, just email us at: ruslandLSG@cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk

As always, you can also keep in touch with us by:

- Joining the Wild about Rusland Facebook group
- Going to: <https://www.cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk/rusland>
- Signing up for the CWT Newsletter.

RUSLAND CHURCH TOWER

The Reverend John Dixon, chair of Rusland PCC, opened the meeting in Rusland Reading Room by outlining the history of the tower problem and the steps taken so far.

An excellent, informative and at times amusing talk given by David Wiggins of Clach Conservation left us in no doubt of the state of the tower. He described abseiling down the side of the tower removing quite a lot of sizeable stones which came away in his hands like books from a shelf.

Basically the tower is a stocky stable form. The parapet needs taking down and rebuilding. The next section down, the bell tower, requires work on the wall and louvres. The section below is in relatively good condition. The bottom section including buttresses, which is a poorly built Victorian addition, is the main problem. The major cause of damage is 167 years of weather in an exposed position. To quote David 'we have a big problem on our hands'. David then took questions from the floor and many people had the opportunity to speak to him later.

There was a board showing photos of the tower, a timeline of actions to date and money spent so far.

We are looking at various options following a survey by John Coward Architects. As yet, we do not have sufficient information to make a decision which route to take. Clearly any tower repair is likely to be very expensive so we would be dependent on sufficient funds being available via grants, donations and fundraising.

Rusland PCC thank all those (over 50) who attended the meeting and all those who couldn't but expressed their support. Thank you to John for chairing and all those who helped clearing and washing up after the cheese and wine.

Meanwhile the church is still holding services and all welcome via the vestry entrance.

